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A
LETTER

From a Gentleman at

St. *GERMAINS*,

To his Friend in

LONDON.

Printed in the Year 1697.

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SIR,

IN the midst of our Dismal Apprehensions of a War, which had almost Unpeopl'd this Country, laid waste its Tillage and Vineyards, put an end to its Manufactures, (in a great measure) by transferring them to other Countries; in a word, a War which threatened the Ruine of the French Trade both at home and abroad, and which if the Confederates could have maintain'd but two years longer, in all probabi-

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lity would have reduc'd this Monarchy to almost as low a Condition as that of *Spain*; I say, in the midst of such a frightful Prospect, you will easily believe it is a most agreeable surprize to them, to find themselves now (by the ill Conduct of their Neighbours) already deliver'd from all these impendent Mischiefs: For by the imprudent haste the Allies have made in the Discharge of their Troops, the French King hath the opportunity of furnishing himself with the best Foot that were ever yet known in the World, and is now at liberty to Employ his own Subjects in Tillage, Vineyards, and Manufactures, by which means, in a small time, he may reasonably expect to Restore his Trade to its former flourishing State: And if they are thus pleas'd with the happy Change of their Condition, you will give our Court leave to be no less Transported with the Accounts they have by the last Posts of the present posture of Affairs in *London*.

I must confess, I have long promis'd my self, whenever a Peace should be declar'd between *France* and *England*, our Court at *St. Germain's* might by a prudent, and carefull Conduct, profit themselves very much of the inveterate Animosities between the two contesting Parties for the Ministry there; And (tho' they neither of them intend such a Consequence of their Quarrel) that it might at some time happen, whilst they are Playing for this Stake of Government, we may have a fair Game to Beast 'em Both.

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But I must own, I did think this would have been a Work of more time; I did not imagine any thing like this could happen, before the French Troops were Disbanded, the Towns deliver'd up, or any other part of the Peace perform'd : But that part of it which hath already enabl'd the King of *France* to maintain another years War, if he should so think fit, I mean, the opening of the Trade with him. This is so Amazing a Management, That Thinking Men can scarce believe it other than a Dream : However, most of us are so easie to entertain every appearance of Hope, that this News hath occasion'd a great Change in the Countenances of our Court : The King himself takes other Ayres upon him than he hath been seen to do of late ; Is much in Whispers, with *Mac*——— *Fitz*——— and *O*——, which we here call a Cabinet ; And the poor Queen, who upon the first Knowledge of the intended Peace, every Night, like King *David*, *Water'd her Couch with her Tears*, hath now reasum'd the pointed Glories of her Eyes ; appears all Gay, is always present at Balls, Plays, &c. Orders are given out for us to Liquor our Jack-Boots, Masses are said day and night for our Success ; and we talk with Assurance, that we shall shortly have as quiet and uncontested a Restoration as that in 1660 : I own I cannot be Sanguine at this rate, for tho' it gives great Encouragement to see a People impos'd upon so far by an Artificial Argument, as to believe Black.

is White, and in a Point upon which their All depends ; yet I look upon it only as a surprize, which will not be able to maintain the Ground it hath got, against a mature and deliberate Consideration, the Antient Observers have left to us as a Proverb, *That nothing Violent is Lasting*: I know my Countrymen are apt to be surpriz'd into Mistakes, but they grow more reasonable upon thinking, as we found to our Costs about Ten years since; and this would be so general a Ruin, that I fear there are too many concern'd to suffer it easily. And I should fancy, it is impossible for them, (when they come soberly to Reflect upon their Danger from *Le Hogue, Calais*, the several Debarkments in *Ireland*, and the *P. of O.*'s Descent, in every of which Cases, the English were Masters of the Sea) to believe themselves safe without a Land-Force, nor with any other Land-Force than Disciplin'd Troops against Disciplin'd Troops, certainly they cannot. The State of the Case, I take to be, That the old Designing K——s have found this way to make themselves Courted by the Government, and have Trump'd up these Specious Fears and Jealousies of Liberty, to draw in a sort of Men, who wish better to their Interest, than they Judge of it, to strengthen their Party; and I am apt to think, the real Contest is, a Struggle between the Two Contending Parties, which of them shall appear the most able and successful in the Management of the present Argument on foot, For and against an Army ; and

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consequently which of them shall be esteem'd most useful by their Masters ; for that any who are for the present Government (which I fear most of the People of *England* are) can be for no Army in their present Circumstances, is Ridiculous to believe.

However it is our part to improve this Occasion to our Service as far as we can, and in order to this, the K. and Q. direct first, That you make all the Compliments imaginable from them to the Author of the Argument *Against a Standing Army, &c.* And (because nothing can please him so much as to be thought Important) you are to tell him, They own all the Hopes they have of their Restauration to His Conduct, and to the most Eloquent Persuasion of his Book, That they shall always Treat him as their Redeemer, and that he shall not only be the *Alb——l*, but the *Cl——n* too of their Government : Their Supreme Minister both in Military and Civil Affairs, (as being equally Capable of both.) Perhaps you will think this Ridiculous, and truly it would be so to any other ; but as to this Gentleman, believe me you cannot be too Extravagant, neither in your Praises of him, nor Promises to him : For as nothing is so Impossible, but that he will hope to make you believe it ; so on the other hand, nothing is so Impossible neither, but you may make him believe, when it humours his Vanity. However his malicious Wit, and indefatigable Industry to revenge himself of
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his late Friends, may be of use to us, if prudently managed. But to that End let him write and act for us in a Mask, for I fancy his Credit is so low on every side, that he will never be able to do our Enemies any considerable Mischief barefac'd; Flatter and Promise all his Friends too, without measure, from the *S—ch* Conjuror down to the little dirty School Boy; make 'em all Secretaries of State, or what else they have most fancy for. It is a cheap way of Listing Auxiliaries; and Fools are more pleased with immense Hopes, than moderate Certainities.

Let our Friends industriously solicit in the Court of *Requests*, Coffee, Chocolate Houses, &c. and by being all Things to all Men, they will gain some.

Those Whigs who are State Phanaticks, and prefer the Popular Project of being against an Army, to the Real Safety of the People whom they pretend to Protect, you are to praise for their Steadiness to their former Principles; clap them on the Back, and call them Brave *Englishmen*, true *Englishmen*.

The City you are to fright with that dismal Havock that Laced Coats and Red Stockings will make amongst their Wives and Daughters, for Women are provoked by the sight of the Red to Love, as Turkey Cocks are to Anger; and you are to tell 'em, It will be too hard for these *Ragamuffins in Red* to run away with their Women, whilst the *D—ch* on the other hand run away with their Trade.

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Make the Country Squires sensible of the most deplorable Havock these *Robbers of Hen-roosts* will make amongst the Poultry ; how dear they will make Eggs : Tell 'em, how exactly these Disciplined Troops have learned of the *French* to shoot flying ; and that not a Partridge, Pheasant, Woodcock, &c. will live in quiet for 'em, which perhaps may weigh more with some of them than a *French* Invasion.

Enrage the Clergy with Reminding them of the Decrease of their Dominion ; tell 'em, That now the Sword of justice walks into Conventicles, not to Correct 'em, but to Compliment 'em. How can they bear to see all those pleasing and profitable Laws against Dissenters laid asleep ! Remember them of their old Maxim, " That it is better to have Papists govern, than " Presbyterians. And that they may not apprehend too much, that their Part in the late Revolution will be remembred, tell 'em, That K. *James* hath often been heard to say, That thô indeed the Church of *E——*, like St. *Peter*, denied their Master upon the Pr—— of *O——*'s coming over ; yet, like that holy Saint too, they soon repented of it, and immediately went out and wept bitterly for it ; and that some of them had sufficiently Expiated for that Offence by Service since. Thô it proved not to have the Success they intended ; and withall let 'em know, it is a Standing Rule in all wise Courts, That as one Disservice shall de-

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stroy the Merit of a Thousand past Services, so no past Injuries shall be remembered if you can serve a present Turn.

Irritate all those who came over with the Pr— of O——, and are unrewarded; Remind the Whigs of their being disbanded when there was no further use of them; It may prove a reasonable precedent for them to disband the Army; And as *Timon of Athens* says, “May they con— found the Army, and then——

Endeavour to make the People impatient of their Taxes, the *Spartan* Politicians jealous of their Liberties, and the Ladies sensible of the neglect of their Beauty, and what Gallantries they may expect from us who have been Bred so long in *France*. And now I name Ladies, Pray let Mrs. L——y lay hold upon the young M——rs, with her Troop of Catholick kind Beauties: We are told much of the Progress of her Arms, and that she hath by a Detachment of her Troops, made two of their Grandees Prisoners: Thank her for her young Lord's Conversion, who Labours in our Interests more than ye all, and I hear his Labour of Love is not in vain amongst the young Sparks of his acquaintance; but she must take Care to manage him warily, for it is said, That he hath all the K——ve of his Grandfather without any of his Understanding.

Let some Apostles be sent to Coffee-Houses to Preach up; and Argue for the *Roman* and *Lacedæmonian*

monian Schemes of Government ; for in our Case, *The furthest way about will be the nearest way home.* (according to the Proverb,) And it was upon this Point, that the Restauration was brought about in 1660 ; for if you can make my Countrymen out of their Wits one way, you may the more easily make 'em so any other way. Let our Friends Amuse our Enemies, by not appearing violent against any Laws which forbid Corresponding with K. 7. and the return of *Jacobites* from *France*, nay not even against an Act of Abjuration ; for if we can by these Shadows of Security, prevail with them to Disband the Army, we shall soon be in a Condition to Disband those Laws ; and if by any of these Methods above-mention'd, you find that ye gain Ground, we will then consider what is next to be done ; in the mean time I wish you good luck, and am,

Tours, &c.

P O S T S C R I P T.

I Had forgot to tell you, that since this News from *England*, Orders are given out here to hasten the delivery of all the Towns, to the Confederates, and likewise immediately to Disband a great part of the Army, hoping thereby to take
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away all Jealousies from the English, and to Confirm 'em in their Security ; For the French wisely consider, That if by this means they can Advance the present Project on Foot amongst the English, of a Militia ; and that they can surprize them, while they are in this mad Fit, the Towns (were they twice as many) will quickly be their own again. I had forgot likewise to tell you, That you are to Advise our Friends, that they appear not too warm in publick Discourse against Armies, it will allarm our Enemies, and awaken them out of their Lethargy, if they are not infatuated, to see declared *Jacobites* so concern'd for English Liberty, and perhaps put them upon thinking that they have some other Motive which makes them so unkind to their old Mistress, *A Standing Army*.

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